

# Missionary dies in Philippines firefight

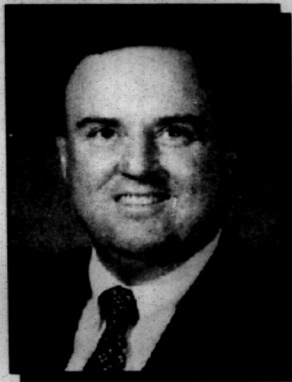
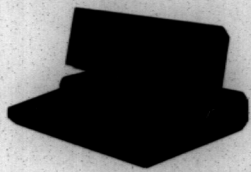
Cards and letters for Gracia can be sent to Gracia Burnham c/o NTM at 1000 E. First Street, Sanford, FL 32771-1487

## 11

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) —** Gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) in May were 42.1% above gifts for May 2001, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. Year-to-date support for CP Missions has moved to 5.24 percent ahead of totals at this same point last year. May's \$17,977,344.47 in CP gifts to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America compared to \$12,650,999.98 in May 2001, a difference of \$5,326,344.49. Designated gifts of \$25,616,272.95 in May, meanwhile, were 71% above May 2001's \$14,989,467.66, an increase of \$10,626,805.29. In year-to-date CP giving, \$123,736,793.85 has been received, compared with \$117,580,589.31 in 2000-01, an increase of 5.28% or \$6,156,204.54. The SBC operates on an Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year. In year-to-date designated giving, \$143,118,785.87 has been received, compared with \$131,750,114.60 in 2000-01, an increase of 8.63% or \$11,368,671.27.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# Up to their old tricks

**T**he age-old scene is a familiar one, almost a rite of passage: a young man peers over both shoulders, nervous that he might be recognized but driven by his immature impulses to risk entering the store. He waits nervously in the cashier's line until his turn comes.

He averts his eyes from the cashier and says in a hushed voice, "I want one of those magazines under the counter." He hastily pays for the magazine and quickly exits the store, so anxious is he to tear off the "protective" cellophane and take in the contents. There before his eyes are page after page of naked bodies, writhing in suggestive poses. He feels a rush course through his body, both from the titillation of the pornography and the excitement of having gotten away with buying it. It feels good.

A troubling scene indeed, but before you run out and begin a campaign against all the dirty bookstores in town, you need to know that the scene depicted above is happening thousands of times each week not at dirty bookstores but at... shopping malls.

After all, malls are where the upscale Abercrombie and Fitch (A&F) clothing stores are located. That's right — Abercrombie and Fitch is up to its old tricks.

Long criticized for its quarterly clothing catalogs aimed at young people but containing full frontal nudity and tasty recipes for mass alcohol consumption, the Ohio-based chain has apparently reached a new low with its just released Wet, Hot Summer Fun XXX catalog.

"For nearly three years now, I have been trying to persuade clothing retailer Abercrombie and Fitch that its practice of peddling soft porn in the guise of a clothing catalog is offensive and irresponsible," said Illinois Lt. Governor Corinne Wood, who started the web site, [www.stopAandF.com](http://www.stopAandF.com), after she discovered her 14-year old daughter had managed to acquire one of the catalogs.

"A&F is clearly attempting to glamorize indiscriminate sexual behavior that unsophisticated teenagers are not possibly equipped to weigh against the dangers of date rape, unplanned pregnancies, and sexually transmitted diseases," she pointed out.

Visit any Mississippi elementary, junior high, or high school, and you'll quickly lose count of the Abercrombie and Fitch merchandise adorning the young students. Their advertising/marketing strategy has been as devastatingly effective in our state as it has been in other states.

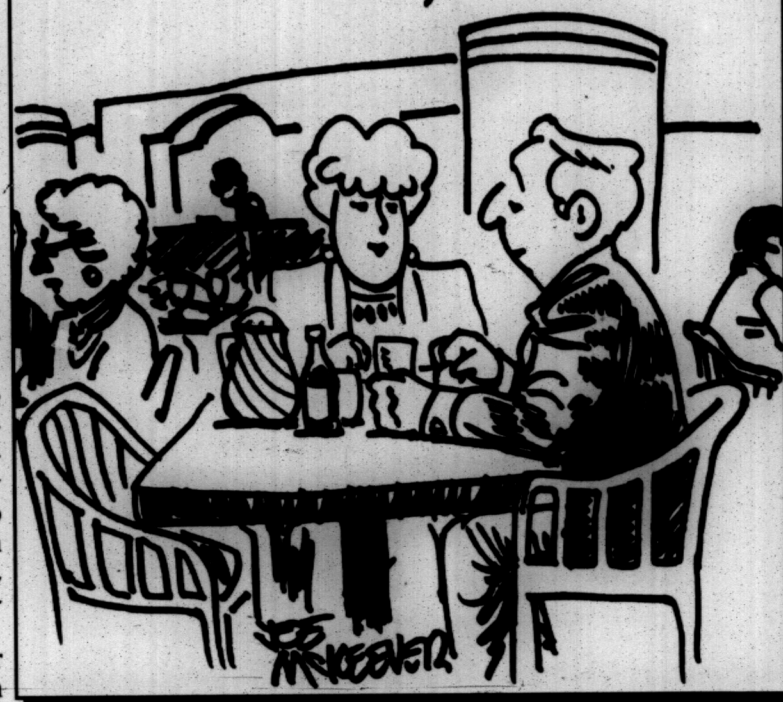
Without a doubt, these younger people are the targets of the company's perverse campaign, and many kids have been won over to the Abercrombie and Fitch themes of beautiful bodies, harmless sex, and hedonism without end.

What can a parent or concerned adult do? Visit a local Abercrombie and Fitch store and see the catalog for yourself, then ask for the manager and inquire as to why such soul-destroying pornography is available in his/her shop.

Next, write the president of Abercrombie and Fitch, Michael Jeffries, and express your displeasure in a Christian way. His address is 6301 Fitch Path, New Albany, OH 43054. You can also go to the company's web site, [www.abercrombie.com](http://www.abercrombie.com), and leave a message under "Contact Us."

Lastly, you can hamstring the propagation of Abercrombie and Fitch's aberrant lifestyles by refusing to purchase their mer-

**"DID YOU EVER THINK WHEN GOD CALLED YOU TO PREACH, YOU WOULD SOME DAY BE ON THE TELLER'S COMMITTEE?"**



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chandise for your children and by disposing of any merchandise already owned.

Christians have been set apart from the world for good reason. We can't be salt and light to a lost world (Matt. 5:13-16), if we walk around with Satan's banners printed loudly across our clothes. We might as well be advertising liquor and tobacco on our children's bodies.

It's time to take a stand on such filth from retailers who want our business.

Are you ready?

## GUEST OPINION:



### Kids' TV and homosexuality

By James A. Smith Sr.  
Jacksonville, Fla.

• What do you think about homosexuals? Do you think it is morally wrong to be a homosexual? Why or why not?

• Many kids these days are growing up in families that are non-traditional (have two moms, or two dads). What do you think about that?

• Do you think homosexuals are discriminated against because of who they are?

• Do you think we need laws to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination? Why or why not?

Andrea Lafferty, executive director of TVC, says, "This show is completely inappropriate and should not air. This show is nothing more than pure propaganda. It is an attempt to further desensitize our nation's children."

Lafferty confronted one of the staff members of "Nick

News" about the nature of the show. The assistant to Ellerbee even acknowledged that most parents believe homosexuality is wrong and teach their children accordingly.

Who would rationally believe that the program will address the issue in a fair and balanced fashion, given Ellerbee's well-known sympathies on the subject?

In spite of the best spin control of the homosexual lobby, it's clear that the movement seeks more than mere acceptance and toleration of their deviant lifestyle.

The homosexual lobby demands that you and I be made to endorse and promote their practices and seek every opportunity to cause their lifestyle to be seen as a part of the mainstream of American culture. That's what the cam-

paign to force the Boy Scouts of America to accept homosexual scouts and leaders is all about, and that's the agenda of Ellerbee's "Nick News."

What can you do about this outrage? TVC is promoting an online petition, [www.conservativepetitions.com](http://www.conservativepetitions.com), to urge the network to drop any plans for the show.

The petition, which has gained 26,000 signatures as of May 13, urges Nickelodeon executives to "call an immediate halt to any attempt by Linda Ellerbee to use Nickelodeon as a propaganda network for homosexual activist groups" and pledges that "if you move ahead with this program, I assure you my children will never be allowed to watch Nickelodeon again."

Herb Scannell, president of Nickelodeon, can be reached by calling (212) 258-7590 or writing him at 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036.

Tell Nickelodeon to dump Ellerbee's agenda. If the pro-homosexuality show airs, you can be sure that our kids will be "slimed" in a manner that will not be easy to clean-up.

Smith is executive editor of *The Baptist Witness*, newsjournal of the Florida Baptist Convention.



# Speaker addresses women on evangelism

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Jaye Martin was doing door-to-door witnessing one night several years ago when it hit her: men and women can be vastly different, even when sharing the Good News.

She and a couple of young men had just helped lead a woman to Christ using Evangelism Explosion, a witnessing tool similar to LifeWay Christian Resource's FAITH evangelism strategy. However, Martin had junked the outline in favor of a more conversational approach.

After all, the lady came to the door crying, and Martin didn't feel an outline was appropriate. Walking back to the car, Martin was excited but her two teammates weren't so happy.

"They said, 'I don't know what that was, but it was not the outline,' I said, 'The outline? What is the outline for? The whole reason you have an outline for is so that you will have an open door to share Christ.'"

Martin, who now directs women's evangelism for the North American Mission Board (NAMB), had to show the two men that the points in the outline had been covered even if they were somewhat out of order.

"That started me on a long, long journey of saying, 'OK, God. What is different with women than it is with men?'" she said.

Martin, who spoke to women during a special event at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in April, has designed an evangelism strategy especially for women. Dubbed "HeartCall," the four-year-old strategy is geared toward getting women involved in evangelism in the local church.



**TALKING EVANGELISM** — Jaye Martin (standing) of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) speaks to a group of women at Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Martin, who directs women's evangelism for NAMB, was there to talk about "HeartCall," an evangelism strategy designed specifically for women. (Photo by David Merrifield)

Saying that women "have left evangelism up to the men," she quoted surveys showing that 80-90% of church volunteers/workers are women.

"We have got to mobilize our women to get out and reach other women and to share Christ," she said.

Men and women relate to one another much differently, she pointed out.

"Men tend to think and talk," she said. "Women tend to share and feel. It's not that we don't ever think and talk. It's not that they don't ever share and feel. But as we start looking at evangelism, we want women to feel comfortable sharing Christ. One of the things we've got to do is look at that ... and say, 'What can we do to help her?'"

The HeartCall strategy has several elements. One is the HeartCall: The Call to Prayer devotional book, composed of daily devotionals intended to

teach the reader how to pray for the lost. More than 300 leading Southern Baptist women contributed devotionals.

HeartCall's evangelism strategy is summed up in a booklet titled "HeartTalk," which lays out the plan of salvation. The strategy focuses on the HeartCall logo, which consists of a cross overlaid on a heart. HeartCall logo lapel pins are also available and can be used as conversation-starters.

HeartCall also has multi-week Bible study courses.

Martin said women can use the HeartCall evangelism strategy in a number of ways. One is through church and house socials where lost people are invited. The plan of salvation, via the HeartTalk strategy, can then be presented.

"Relationships," Martin said, "are uniquely important to women." She used her marriage as an example. Her husband, she said, gets together with his male friends in order to play tennis. For them, talking is secondary. Martin, on the other hand, organizes events with female friends simply in order to talk.

"Relationships are important for women," she said. "... Most of the time, those relationships are so important that they'll go out of their way to get them."

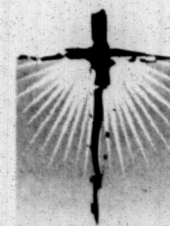
"A woman wants to meet other people. She wants help with life and she doesn't know where to get it."

Martin said that women have many needs. She said they wear too many hats; have a lack of self esteem; are stressed out; and have too few relationships.

"When we start talking about women's ministry and reaching women, if you will do your ministry geared to (relieving) these four things, you will be successful," she said.

Martin noted that the HeartCall strategy goes beyond simply sharing Christ in a social setting. It involves getting

women to understand that they can share Christ with their neighbors.



MISSISSIPPI  
**BAPTISTS**

**THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

*Record*

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## ACLU raps program

WASHINGTON (BP) — A federally funded abstinence-only sex education program in Louisiana is the subject of an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) lawsuit, based on allegations that the program employs religious messages which the ACLU claims violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. The Louisiana program was given \$1.6 million a year for five years to lower the state's teenage pregnancy rate, which is ranked ninth in the U.S. In the past school year, volunteers taught some 10,000 seventh grade students in 18 parishes statewide the program's abstinence-only sex education curriculum. Abstinence clubs in high schools and community-based projects account for the other funds. Joe Cook, executive director of the ACLU of Louisiana, said that upon his organization's investigation into the GPA, there were several instances where local organizations used public money for the abstinence programs that included Christian themes in conveying the abstinence message. "The goal of the suit is to make sure that [the GPA] complies with the law, that they stop funding programs that preach religion in the abstinence-only education," Cook said. "We want them to take the appropriate steps to make sure that tax dollars are not being used to preach religion."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Southern Baptists along the Mississippi River plan a project called the Mississippi River Ministry, designed to aid 127 counties and parishes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, and Illinois.

### 20 years ago

Jim Didlake is named consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Brotherhood Department. Didlake, minister of education and administration for First Church, Brandon, will be state Royal Ambassador director and coordinate Mississippi Baptists' disaster relief program.

### 50 years ago

Charles McKay, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, resigns in order to become secretary of enlargement and enlistment for evangelism at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.



## Ukrainian Baptist leader to be feted

Vladimir Shemchishin, president of Odessa Seminary in Odessa, Ukraine, and a senior pastor in the Odessa area, will be honored June 27 in Jackson by the Partnership Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). Ken Rhodes, MBCB partnership missions director, said Shemchishin has been instrumental in the success of the ongoing partnership between Baptists in Mississippi and Ukraine.



Shemchishin

"Pastor Shemchishin is a friend to Mississippi Baptists and a vital part of the Mississippi-Ukraine partnership," Rhodes pointed out.

The June 27 reception in Shemchishin's honor will be held from 2-4 p.m. in the Skyroom of the Baptist Building in Jackson. Rhodes said all Mississippi Baptists — especially those who have been or are planning to be involved in the Mississippi-Ukraine partnership — are invited to attend.

"We would like to have a good representation from our state to visit with Pastor Shemchishin," Rhodes said.

For more information, contact Rhodes at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3239, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 239. E-mail: krhodes@mbcb.org

# Church ad campaigns must be effective

ATLANTA (BP) — Advertising can be a good way for churches to reach their communities, but some common pitfalls can decrease the effectiveness of such efforts, according to a North American Mission Board (NAMB) church advertising specialist.

A billboard advertising "sound biblical teaching," for instance, might reach some people but those people likely are already attending another church, said Vince Garrett, of NAMB's media strategy team.

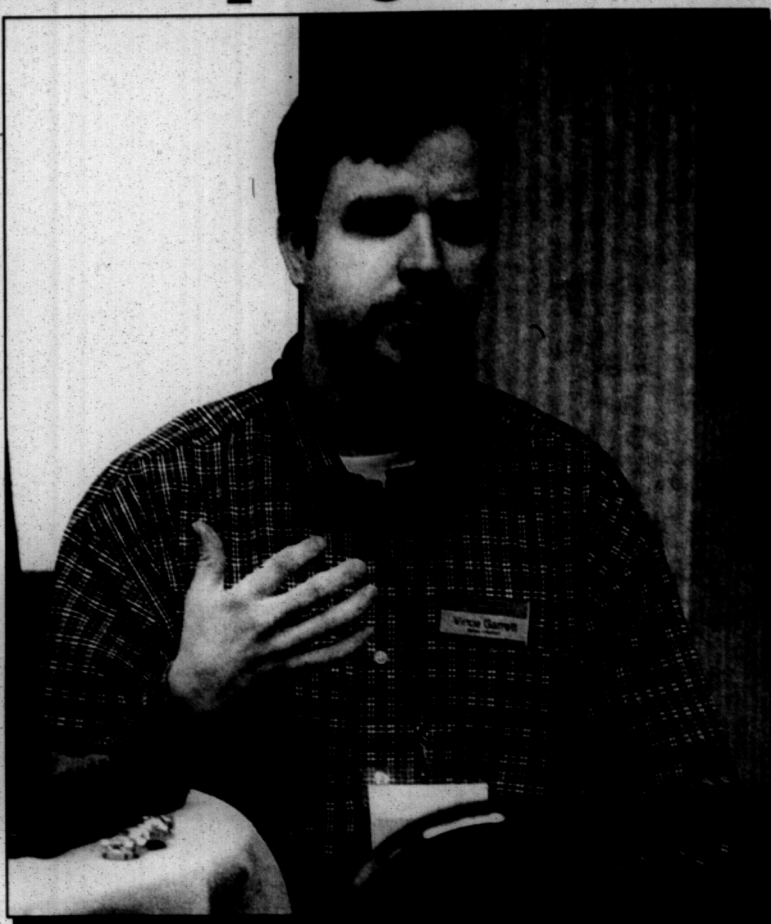
Non-Christians might be more attracted by an appeal to the need for stronger families or connecting with God. The sound biblical teaching comes as a natural outgrowth of those themes.

Garrett's list of 10 common mistakes in church advertising was part of a workshop session on Innovative Advertising for your Church offered during a May 20-24 regional conference for pastors, missionaries, and other NAMB partners.

Those mistakes, and the more-effective strategies, include:

- "Doing something because it worked somewhere else." Every community, church, and situation has its own set of dynamics. "There are things that are transferable, but we have to be careful about hearing about something that works and immediately doing the same thing," Garrett said.

- "Targeting a medium and not an audience." Be careful about saying, "We really need to get on the radio" rather than decid-



Garrett

ing on the message and crafting a broad-based plan for communicating that message.

- "Using a 'shotgun approach' when targeted advertising is more effective." Garrett suggested using a "heavy-on, then off" approach of concentrating advertising into shorter periods for the most impact, with each campaign focused on a specific message.

- "Doing what you like, rather than what's best for the intended audience," as illustrated by the billboard example.

- "Using church 'rhetoric' instead of words everyone understands." The use of words such as "fellowship" or "saved," for instance, should be avoided if the goal is to reach unchurched people.

- "Highlighting what you don't do instead of what you do." A strong children's ministry might be a goal, but advertising shouldn't over-sell. "Focus on what you are doing that is good and strong, and not what you hope to be."

- "Highlighting a program instead of a benefit." Sunday school might be an excellent ministry, but people are more drawn to messages describing the relationships and Bible knowledge their family will receive.

- "Not taking advantage of the calendar." Holidays, seasons, and even the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack can provide themes for events that can be advertised, Garrett said.

- "Relying on a single medium." The most effective advertising reinforces the same message to audiences by multiple exposures over different mediums.

- "Using media without a plan." Churches should take the time to research and plan their advertising at least a quarter, and possibly a year, in advance.

Editor's note: More information on church advertising is available through NAMB's Church Advertising Resources web site at [www.namb.net/ads](http://www.namb.net/ads). NAMB media strategists also are available to consult with local churches by calling (800) 519-9271 or via e-mail at [ads@namb.net](mailto:ads@namb.net).

## DAD'S DAY (THE IMPORTANCE OF DAD)

Father's Day is just ahead, and it is an excellent opportunity to stop and think about how important fathers really are. Some would have us think that being a father is simply providing one part of the chemistry that produces children. Now, you may do that and be a dad, but it takes far more than that to be a father. It is tragic, but true, that many kids grow up without a father present in the home. Parent's Magazine reported a few years ago that one-half of America's children can now expect to live in a non-male household sometime before they reach the age of 18. That is tragic because dads really are important!

In a school in Minnesota some ninth and tenth graders were given a sheet of paper with these instructions, "Write down one word, and only one word, that comes to your mind when you hear this word - 'Dad'." The results from hundreds of answers that were written down were interesting and possibly frightening. The answers covered the full spectrum of life and emotions, and attitudes and actions. Some of the kids wrote words like "angry," "jerk," "mad," and "absent." On the other hand, some kids wrote down words like "wholesome," "kind," "security," and "safety."

Dad is an immensely powerful word that leaves an indelible mark on the life of the children and beyond. Dads are important and dads are powerful. Just think about it.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

- Fathers have the power to Bless. I know mamas are a blessing, but daddies can be also. A dad can make or break the future by what he does or does not say and by what he does or does not do.

Sophia Loren, the world-renowned actress, has spent her life in beauty, riches, and notoriety. She once said of her father that she only saw him six times in her life. This was her testimony: "He shaped me as a person more than any other man. It was the dream of my life to have a father and that is why I sought him everywhere. I spent most of my life looking for substitutes for him. I still wonder what he was thinking when he would see me on the movie screen. Of all the grandiose gifts that I ever received in life, my most cherished possession is the only toy my father ever gave to me — a little blue car with my name on it."

It is almost beyond description to realize the awesome impact of a father's care and love. The basketball giant of a man, Shaquille O'Neal — seven feet plus, 300 pounds and over, skillful, determined, highly paid — was being interviewed one day by Joe

Garigiola. Joe asked him, "What gets you really excited?" Shaquille said, "When I get a phone call from my father telling me that he loves me."

- Fathers have the power to Caress. When a dad holds his children or his mate, it makes a marvelous impression. In fact, maybe the best place for a dad to care for his children is to begin at the heart of his wife. That in itself makes a difference.

One day a fourth-grade class was working on Father's Day cards to accompany the gifts they had made for their dads. The teacher suggested that the students might want to illustrate the cards with a favorite activity of something that the father really liked to do, like golf or fishing. One little boy raised his hand and said, "May I draw a picture of my mother? My dad really likes her a lot." That's the way it ought to be and dads have that power to caress mom and the sweet children.

- Finally, fathers have the power to Express. Jesus often talked about his Father and it is important for earthly fathers to realize that we are to be shaped

into the likeness of that Heavenly Father. A wise old author, Charlie Shedd, once quoted a famous psychiatrist as saying, "No little child will think more of God than he thinks of his father."

My, what an insight! How important it is for earthly fathers to realize that sharing love with their child, and instilling trust, security, and confidence in that boy or girl, is his work, his calling, and his business. We are to express the likeness of the Heavenly Father and with the Heavenly Father's help, we can do it.

Shedd suggests that we prepare a speech and gather all the kids around us and deliver it to them. He said it ought to go something like this: "Listen to me troops. When I am the kind of father I should be, that's what God is like. When I am not so hot, I hope you will learn the all-important process of contrast. Wherever the Bible says that God is like a father, you can understand that God is like a perfect father. You know I'm not perfect, but I'm going to keep on trying and I want you to know that I know that I've got a long way to go!"

Dads — your day will soon be here, so capture the day by being the kind of father that will enable your kids to think about you when they think about God the Father and give them the blessing of seeing God's love and character shine through you.

To all you dads: "Have a great day and may God the Father bless you richly!"



# Seminary holds first outdoor graduation

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — More than 200 Southeastern Seminary and Southeastern College students at Wake Forest graduated May 25 in a historic first outdoor commencement ceremony on the Wake Forest campus.

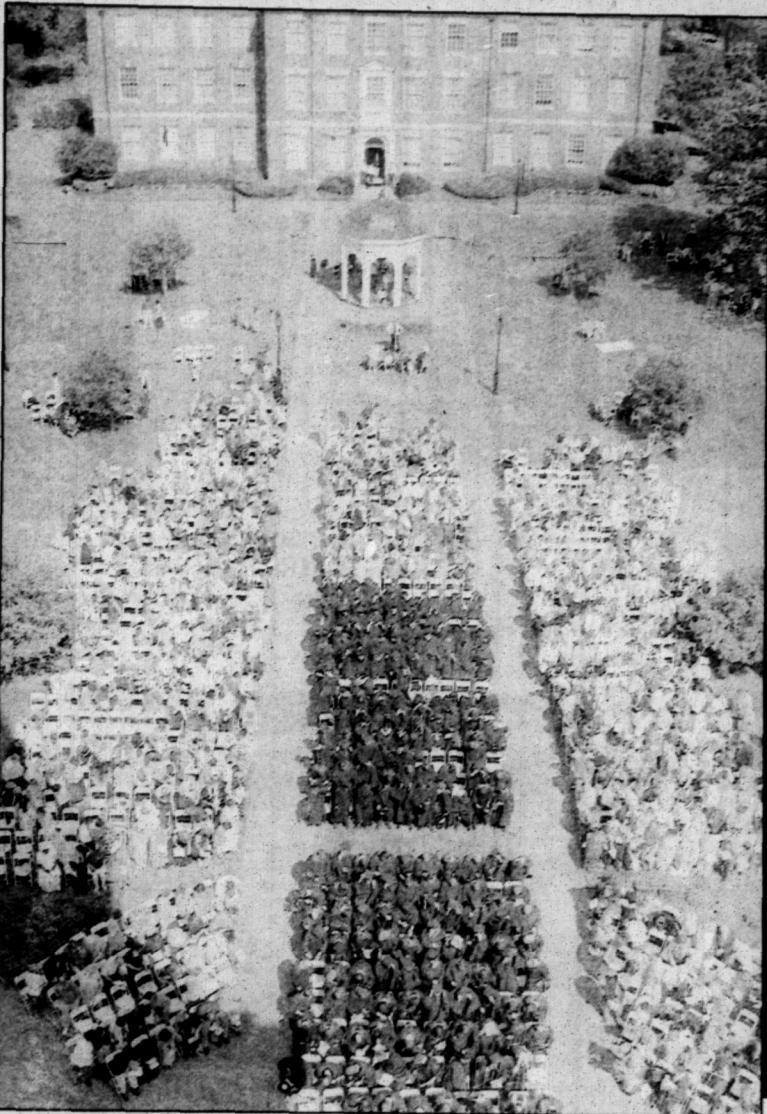
"We would have turned hundreds away from an indoor graduation this year had we held the ceremony in Binkley Chapel because it only holds about 1,425 people," said Ryan Hutchinson, vice president for administration.

Seminary officials estimated that approximately 1,800 people attended the outdoor graduation.

The spring 2002 graduates sat in the mid-morning sunlight in front of Binkley Chapel, as Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberties Commission in Nashville, charged the new ministers to be alert in their new areas of ministry as they face spiritual warfare.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places," Land said quoting Eph. 6:12. "But greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world."

Land, standing on a temporary platform constructed on the chapel steps, underscored four principles to help the graduates be on guard against the enemies' tactics of destroying their ministries. First, Land warned the new graduates against falling into immoral relationships with the opposite sex.



FULL HOUSE — View of the May 25 outdoor graduation ceremonies at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., as seen from the steeple of Binkley Chapel on campus. (BP photo by Kelly Davis)

"If David is not the most frightening character in the Bible, he should be," Land said. "If the devil can use a woman to get at David, he will use a woman to get to you."

Land further urged the new ministers to exercise extreme caution, even to the point of prudence, when ministering to the opposite sex. Next, Land warned the crowd against setting their sights on false finances.

"Don't do what you do in the ministry for the money," he said. "Reject the devil's golden rule, which says, 'those who make the money, make the rules.' Preach what God wants you to preach."

Then, Land encouraged the students to not let the devil entice them with fleeting fame. "If you become lovers of the first place at the feast, you'll begin to trim what you say. You'll become a butter knife instead of a scalpel."

Land said a subtle way the devil tries to get at ministers is enticing them with fearless familiarity to the holiness of God.

"Seek the law of God. Don't be content about this day without knowing more about the Bible than you did yesterday. Don't get to the place where you're not in awe of God when you're standing at the sacred desk," Land said, referencing a term the late W.A. Criswell used for the pulpit.

Concluding his charge to the graduates, Land said the only inoculation against any and all temptations is to "practice filial fidelity to our Heavenly Father."

## No BR on July Fourth

Due to postal regulations that limit The Baptist Record to 50 issues per year, the newspaper will not publish on July 4. All news and information to be published before the next available issue on July 11 must therefore appear in the June 27 issue. The regular deadline for news and information to be published in the June 27 issue is the close of business on June 20. For news and information to be published in the July 11 issue, the special deadline is the close of business on July 3. For more information, contact The Baptist Record staff at (601) 292-3375 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 375.

## Degrees awarded at convention's oldest seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — More than 170 students from 32 states and six foreign countries received degrees May 17 during the 189th commencement in the 143-year history of the Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. In a separate ceremony more than 30 students graduated from Boyce College — the seminary's undergraduate school — while about 15 students graduated from Seminary Wives Institute, a program for student spouses.

In Old Testament times, a "watchman" would stand guard on the edge of the city, ready to blow his horn when the enemy attacked; in the same manner ministers of the Gospel should be watchmen, preaching the Good News and warning people that the judgment of the Lord is coming, seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. told the crowd assembled in Alumni Memorial Chapel on the seminary's campus.

Preaching from Acts 20:17-32, Mohler told the graduates that in their future ministry they should: 1) declare the truth of the Gospel, 2) finish the "race" of ministry, 3) preach the kingdom of God and 4) guard their flock.

Part of preaching the kingdom of God, Mohler said, is playing the role of a watchman.

"If you are called to the ministry of the Gospel of the grace

of God, you are set as a watchman upon the wall," he said.

Mohler pointed to Acts 20:26, where Paul says he is "innocent of the blood of all men." Mohler said Paul's quote should be viewed within the context of Ezekiel 33:1-6, where a watchman was told to guard the city. If the watchman saw an enemy and blew the trumpet, he was innocent of anyone's death. But if the watchman failed to blow the trumpet, he himself was guilty if anyone died.

In the same way, Mohler said, ministers should blow the "trumpet" of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, warning their flock that the judgment of God is inevitable.

"(Paul) blew the trumpet, and that trumpet was the Gospel. He blew it loudly, he blew it clearly," Mohler said.

The Gospel must be declared, he added, even when critics say that to declare an exclusive message is intolerant.

"The ultimate essence of cruelty is to fail to preach the Gospel," he said. "... True cruelty is failing to blow the trumpet."

Paul was able to say he was "innocent of the blood of all men" because he declared the truth of the Gospel, Mohler said. Mohler read from Acts 20:20, where Paul tells the elders in Ephesus that he did "not shrink from declaring" the truth.

"The Apostle Paul did not want to receive the indictment from the Lord Jesus Christ that he had failed to deliver the truth," Mohler said. "... If your goal in ministry is to avoid controversy, you can probably accomplish that. You just cannot accomplish ministry."

Mohler added that too many ministers fail to declare the truth of Scripture. "There are so many shrinking ministers, and there are so many shrinking churches with shrunken Gospels," he said.

Reminding graduates that the Gospel is non-discriminatory, Mohler said that ministers should follow Paul's example of humility. However, he added, that humility does not apply to the message itself.

"We are not called to be the proud messengers of a humble message," he said. "We are called to be the humble messengers of a proud message."

Ministers should also strive to serve

God for a lifetime and to "finish the course," Mohler said. He pointed to the many athletic metaphors used by Paul, including one in Acts 20:24.

"We're not running against other runners," Mohler said. "We're racing against unfaithfulness. We're racing against a lack of endurance. We are focusing on the task of finishing the course."



STANDING ROOM ONLY — Southern Seminary graduates, friends, and family members pack Alumni Memorial Chapel on the seminary's Louisville, Ky., campus during the school's commencement ceremony on May 17. (Photo by David Merrifield)



## VBS dates

**Wheeler Grove, Corinth:** June 17-21; 9 a.m.-noon for ages 2-6th grade.

**Liberty Hill, Pope:** June 17-21; 6:15-8:30 p.m.; ages 3 years-6th grade; family night on June 21.

**Cedar View, Olive Branch:** June 17-21; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; kindergarten through 6th grade; rally will be held on June 16, 5-7 p.m.

**Fernwood Gulfport:** June 17-21; ages 4-grade 12; 6:30-9 p.m.

**Holly Springs, Foxworth:** June 17-21; 6:30-9 p.m.; roundup June 15, 4 to 6 p.m.

**First Church, Ocean Springs:** June 24-28; ages 4 - grade 6; 9 a.m.-noon; family night, June 26, 7:30 p.m.

**Morgantown, Natchez:** June 24-28; 5:30-8:30 p.m.; June 22, kick-off day, 10:30 a.m.-noon; E. L. Wright, pastor.

**Wess Chapel, Louisville:** June 24-28; ages pre-kindergarten - grade 6; 9 a.m. - noon.

**Enon, Bay Springs:** June 29; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; worship rally on June 30 at 11 a.m.

**Leaf River, Smith County:** July 1-5; 6-9 p.m.; preschool-6th grade; commencement, July 7 at 11 a.m. with lunch to follow.

**Bay Vista, Biloxi:** July 22-July 26.

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GAs and Mission Friends of Walthall Church

**Younger GAs and Mission Friends of Walthall Church,** Webster Association, raised over \$500 for the Annie Armstrong offering. Pictured (front row) are Coley Tabb, Haley Harrison, Mary Catherine Brister, Carley Stewart, Maloy Mitchell, Lawson Stewart, and Braden Harrison; (back row) Dawn Tabb, Linda Stewart, Monica Cummins, and Toni Carol Powell, leaders. Not pictured are Chad Crimm, Mallory Crimm, Ben Anderson, Patrick Cummins, Tanner Knight, Jack Smith, Mason Powell, Ashton Bryant, Katelyn Rogers, Sydney Allen, Kayla Forbes,

Haley Hodges, and Penny Harrison, leader.

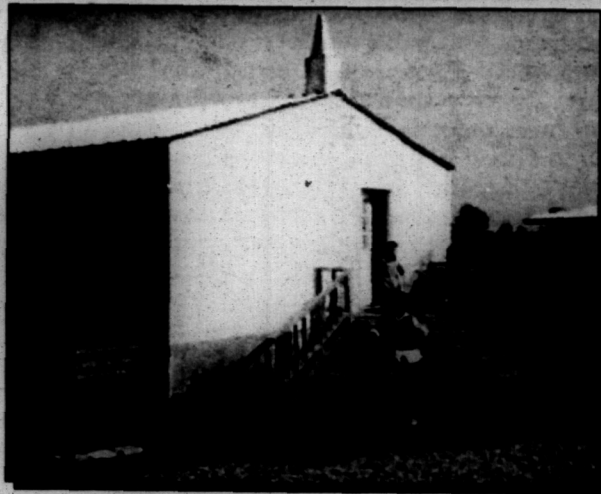
**Wonderful Savior Hispanic Mission, Cleveland,** had a



Wonderful Savior Hispanic Mission

record attendance of 24 on a Sunday in late May, the mission began March 3. Calvary Chapel, Parchman, sponsors the mission in partnership with Mid-Delta Association and meets in facilities provided by First Church, Cleveland.

**New Life and Hispanic Mission Sunflower,** celebrated its third anniversary in May. The guest speaker was Rocky Tzib, Hispanic pastor at



New Life Hispanic Mission

Pontotoc. Tino Trevino is pastor. Calvary Chapel, Parchman, sponsors the work.

## REVIVALS

**SAPA, Eupora:** 100th anniversary; July 28-31; Randall Jackson, former pastor, evangelist; Archie and Janice Chester, Starkville, music; J. C. Mitchell, Columbus, will present the certificate; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall following morning service; Harvey Overstreet, pastor.

**Enon, Bay Springs:** July 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner to follow, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.

Visit the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on the World Wide Web at:

[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

Carey Dinner Theatre will present the musical comedy, Sanders Family Christmas, nightly except Sundays and Mondays, June 13-29. The Mystery of Irma Vep, will be presented July 9-20. Dinner is served at 7 p.m. in the O. L. Quave Theatre on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College, and the performance follows. The box office is open from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat., and seats may be reserved by calling (601) 318-6221. The admission price of \$20 includes the buffet meal, show, and souvenir program book. Sanders Family Christmas is the sequel to the popular Smoke On The Mountain. The Sanders

family returns to Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on Christmas Eve 1941 for a holiday filled with vintage hymns, old-time Christmas favorites, and uproarious yuletide stories. The Mystery of Irma Vep is a comic mystery melodrama involving a sympathetic werewolf, a vampire, an Egyptian mummy, and a diverse collection of characters. The play is set in the Victorian mansion of the world traveling Hilcrests.

The following students graduated from **Mid-America Seminary** in Germantown, Tenn., on May 10.

Receiving masters degrees were Charlie F. Barnes Sr., master of divinity degree, pastor of Mt. Peiler Church, Starkville; Bobby J. Cossey Jr., master of arts in Christian education degree, associate pastor of students and activities at East Heights Church, Tupelo; Cindy Estes, daughter of Jim and Betty Estes of Horn Lake, master of arts in religion and education degree; Ron Ethridge, master of divinity degree, pastor of Locke Station in Marks; and Gregory G. Warren, master of divinity degree, pastor of Antioch Church of Rienzi. Marty A. Roberts, pastor of Wheeler Church, Wheeler, received the associate of divinity degree.

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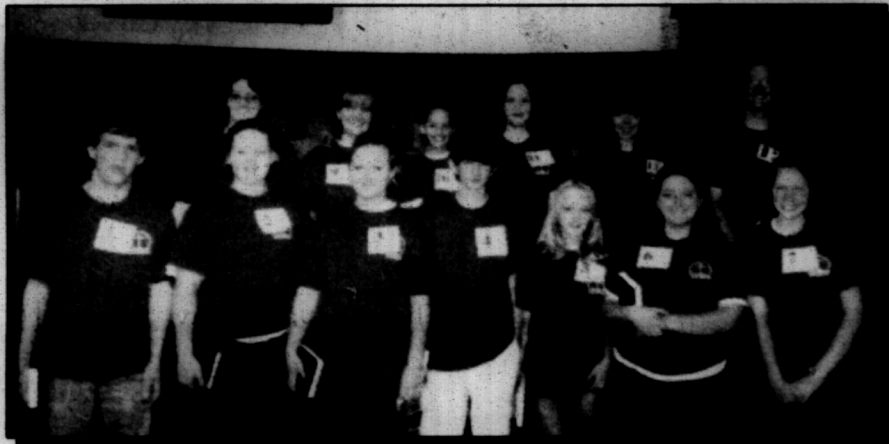
## JUST FOR THE RECORD



GAs of First Church, Quitman

First grade GAs of First Church, Quitman, recently received their charm bracelets and first charm. The girls worked on their World Venture books as well as learning about the various missionaries throughout the year. Pictured (from left) are Taylor White, Whitney Neely, Mallory Slay, and Ashton Howell.

Youth Bible Drillers of Salem Heights Church, Laurel, (pictured, front row) are Jacob Allen, Jessica Benson, Rebecca Benson, Landon Bryant, Kaitlyn Chesser, Katherine Chesser, Jaime Goodson; (back row)



Youth Bible Drillers of Salem Heights Church, Laurel

Summer Housley, Danielle Kinmon, Jessica McGee, Shari Minter, Ashley Savell (9th year participant), and Stephen Turner. Other participants included Casey Carter, Kristel Heckman, and Matthew Kendrick. The leaders were Amy Busby, Denise Houston, and Stephanie Swindol.

Acteens and Escorts of First Church, Senatobia, pictured at the Coronation 2002 are (from left, front row) Chelsey Bailey, Michael Jarjoura, JoAnna Oliver; (back row) Eric Ainsworth, Issac Moore, and Craig Moore.



Acteens and Escorts of First Church, Senatobia

Center Terrace Church, Canton, will celebrate its 70th anniversary on June 30. Sunday activities will begin at 9 a.m. with Sunday School, and worship at 10:30 a.m. Other activities will include special music and time of remembrance at 1:30 p.m. Judd Allen, former pastor, and Scott Griffin will lead the services. Charles Moore, who was ordained by the church, will also participate. Gene Fant, Sr. is pastor.

Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will feature Earl Grace and Friends on June 15 at 6 p.m. Other featured musicians will be The Reeves Family from Ripley, July 21 at 6 p.m. and N 2 Jesus on Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. For additional information, call (662) 895-2661.

Longview Church, Starkville, will present the Reed Bros. Band in an outdoor concert

at 5 p.m. on June 30. Steve Huber is pastor. For additional information, call (662) 323-4470.

Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, will host a marriage retreat entitled, Marriage Under Construction, with Travis Plumlee on June 21-22 at the church. Deadline for tickets is June 19. For ticket information, call (662) 289-4294 or (601) 668-7283.

Calvary Chapel, Parchman, recently broke ground for a family life center. Building committee members pictured (from left, front row) are Phyllis Smith, Cathy Hodges, and Pat Moore; (back row) Rick Milan and Jim Harmon, chairman.



Calvary Church building committee



### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

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2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

**BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC** sought by church averaging 110 in Sunday School. Please e-mail resume to mwsjgb@vicksburg.com or fax to (601) 636-7574 or mail to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

**MID-SIZED CHURCH** seeking part-time minister of music. Steep Hollow Baptist Church, Poplarville, Miss. Two Sunday morning services plus Wednesday night services. Please call (601) 795-4638 or fax resume to (601) 795-4696.

**THOMASTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a bi-vocational or full-time pastor. The church averages 50 in

worship attendance. A three bedroom home is provided. For more information, please call (662) 289-6173 or send resume to Thomastown Baptist Church, P.O. Box 86, Thomastown, MS 39171.

**RURAL CHURCH** located 25 miles north of Jackson, is seeking a part-time minister of music. Primary responsibilities will include music direction during mid-week rehearsals, regular church worship services, and special music/drama presentations during the year. Send resumes to: MUSIC COUNCIL, P.O. Box 67, Benton, MS 39040.

**NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH** is looking for the person God has selected to serve as minister of education and music.

Salary and benefits determined by education and experience level. Please send resume to: Search Committee, New Hope Baptist Church, 508 New Hope Church Road, Foxworth, MS 39483.

**NORTHWEST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** is seeking a God called man, seminary trained, to serve in the ministry of Program Development and Education for our association. All interested individuals need to address their inquiries to Rev. John L. Perkins, Association Missions Director, P.O. Box 381, Hernando, MS 38632.

**BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR** needed for church located in the beautiful Desoto National Forest. We usually have around

35 attend Sunday School and a good turnout for Wednesday night Bible study. The parsonage is being renovated. We are located 45 minutes from Hattiesburg and about one hour from the Gulf Coast. Contact us at janicebaptistchurch@hotmail.com or 528 Snider Rd., Brooklyn, MS 39425.

**BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH:** Hebron Baptist Church is looking for a bi-vocational minister of music/youth. Please send resume to: Hebron Baptist Church, 16 Hebron Church Road, Soso, MS 39480.

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## NAMES IN THE NEWS

SAPA Church, Eupora, recently ordained **Brandon Hodges** and **Brent Goodrum** as deacons. Pictured (from left) are Brandon and Rose Hodges; Harvey Overstreet, pastor; and Anita and Brent Goodrum.



The Hodges, Overstreet, and the Goodrums



Atkins and Alexander

Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, recognized **Sam Atkins** on May 5 with his 50th year attendance pin. He and his wife Anna have

taught the kindergarten class at Harrisburg Church for over 50 years. Pictured is Tim Alexander, minister of education, presenting the pin to Atkins.

**Wade Rogers**, a member of Petal Harvey Church, Petal, and a retired pastor, is available for



Russell, Dunaway, Wallace, and Lynch

supply, interim, Bible studies, or revivals. He can be reached at (601) 582-4559 or at 364 Leeville Rd., Petal, MS 39465.

**Cliff Wallace** and **Curtis Dunaway** were ordained as deacons March 10 at Arlington Church, Lincoln Association. Pictured, (from left): Buddy Russell, deacon chairman, Dunaway, Wallace, and Bob Lynch, pastor.

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## STAFF CHANGES

**Billy J. Howse** has resigned as pastor of **Moak's Creek Church**, Bogue Chitto, after serving 16 years of service. He is available for interim work, supply, or revivals and can be contacted at (601) 734-6908 or (601) 754-8312 or 2782 Gateway Ln. SE, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629.



Howse



Young

**Calvary Church, Pascagoula**, has called **Norman Young** as youth minister effective May 12. He served as minister of students at Memorial Church, Citronelle, Ala.



BAPTISTS



BAPTISTS



BAPTISTS

## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY FROM BAPTIST HOMES, INC.

AND THE KING SHALL ANSWER AND SAY UNTO THEM, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, IN AS MUCH AS YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME.  
MATTHEW 25:40 - KJV

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*Baptist Homes, Inc., is not an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board*



## CADETS WANTED

Editor:

The Baptist Student Union (BSU) at the United States Air Force Academy (USAF) would like to contact the men and women reporting to the Academy June 26 and 27. For those arriving June 26, we will meet them at the airport; provide free lodging, meals, and transportation; and take them to the Academy at the appointed time on June 27. For those arriving June 27, the Air Force Academy buses will meet them but we would like to know of their coming so we can make contact once they have arrived. This is an opportunity to meet smiling faces and make new Christian friends before beginning Basic Cadet Training. If pastors, parents, relatives, friends, or new cadets will contact us with name, address, and telephone, we will contact them to secure flight arrival times and provide further information.

Please contact me at 550 West Woodmen Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. Telephone: (719) 599-9094. E-mail: leedgreg@aol.com.

Also, for anyone attending the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, or U.S. Coast Guard Academy, similar ministries are provided.

At the U.S. Military Academy, contact Bill Blackwell, 11 Oak Street, Cornwall, NY 12518. Telephone: (845) 534-3944. E-mail: yb8731@usma.edu. At the U.S. Naval Academy, contact Kirk Ritchey, 201 Hanover Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. (410) 263-0963. E-mail: ritchey@usna.edu

At U.S. Coast Guard Academy contact Caci Clemmer at (860) 912-3126. E-mail: cacilou@yahoo.com; or Jen Saunders at e-mail: zion626@yahoo.com

Dwain Gregory, director Baptist Collegiate Ministries USAFA Colorado Springs, Co.

## VOLS NEEDED

Editor:

There is an exciting new ministry in the Jackson area. Mission Metro is a not-for-profit ministry initially organized by Pinelake Church, Brandon. This vision of this ministry is to "mobilize evangelical believers to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through ministry to the holistic needs of people."

For the summer, Mission Metro is concentrating on Christian outreach in multi-family housing in the metro area. We have been invited to do week-long Backyard Bible Clubs (BBCs) in 19 multi-family housing complexes! The summer's schedule will include BBCs through July 26 and Upward Basketball camps for inner city youth July 15-26.

Volunteers are needed for this incredible mission opportunity. There is no registration cost, and volunteers are responsible for housing, food, and transportation. The Mission Metro staff will assist in making recommendations or arranging housing.

If you are interested in summer BBCs, Upward Basketball, or other mission opportunities with Mission Metro (including Hispanic outreach), please contact Laura Breland at (601) 331-5998, or (601) 956-0218.

Shelby Neese  
Pinelake Church  
Brandon

## ONE AND ONLY

Editor:

As we approach Father's Day on June 16, I realize I never had a father! A series of stepfathers, yes, but never one I could call "Daddy." When I was 14 years of age, I was introduced to the one and only Father: the Almighty, Counselor, Friend, Guide. He was the One to whom I could speak and listen, the One who will pull me back when I begin to wander.

Your pastor will tell you all about him. Give it a try!

Donna Richardson  
Jackson

## ANNIVERSARIES PLANNED

Editor:

Parkway Church, Natchez, will be hosting its 50th anniversary celebration on November 9-10. All past members are encouraged to contact the church to be placed on the mailing list for the anniversary events. Please contact the church at 117 Sgt. Prentiss Drive, Natchez, MS 39120. Telephone: (601) 442-7434.

Danita Jones  
Natchez

Editor:

Riverside Church, Pascagoula, will celebrate 50 years of ministry as a church on

August 24-25. There will be a Saturday evening service and Sunday service with dinner in the fellowship hall. All former pastors, staffers, and members are invited to attend. For more information and to RSVP, contact the church office at (228) 762-9329.

Gloria Raybon  
Pascagoula

## IS BIBLE TRUE?

Editor:

In response to Michael William's letter on May 3 (regarding evolution), I have one question: If Genesis is not true, then how and why is the rest of the Bible true?

Last year I went to a seminar at First Church, Flora, where I learned that Darwinian evolution has no supporting evidence. For one species to change into another, new information would have to be added to the DNA in order to build a new feature (leg, wing, etc.).

I also learned that natural selection cannot be a mechanism for evolution because it only deals with existing genetic information and does not add anything new. It can "select" from existing genes, but cannot create new ones.

I challenge Bible believers to get informed. Go to [www.train2equip.com](http://www.train2equip.com) for books, videos, and links to other good sites. There is also information at train2equip on how to host equipping seminars in local churches.

I pray that Christians will make an effort to learn the truth so they will not be confused or misled by those who seek to undermine the truth of the Bible.

Carol Raborn  
Edwards

## REUNION SET

Editor:

The Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra will be hosting a reunion on July 12-14, for alumni who have been a member of the choir in its ten-year history and have graduated from high school. The first event will be a buffet supper and a choir highlights video montage at 6 p.m. on July 12 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Richard Joiner will direct a choral rehearsal on July 13 and the alumni choir on Saturday night: the 2002 Choir Home concert. On July 14 at 9

a.m. and 10:30 a.m., we will be a part of worship leadership at Wynndale Church, Terry, where Susan Clark is currently serving as interim minister of music.

The doors will open at Camp Garaywa on July 12 at 5:30 p.m., and our final concert will be over by noon on July 14. There will be a cost per person of about \$35. Alumni must make a reservation and pay the fee in advance. For more information, contact Angie Hale at [hhale@mc.edu](mailto:hhale@mc.edu), or call the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Judy Ann Fortenberry  
Jackson

## NORTH, A LIAR

Editor:

In the 1980s, official U.S. policy was to demand that friendly nations avoid arms sales to terrorists in Iran. However, in the mid-80s, the Reagan administration began secretly selling high-tech weapons to the rogue nation. The ultimate goal of the operation was to influence the 1986 U.S. Senate election.

One of the key players in this debacle was a U.S. Marine officer named Oliver North. During the Iran-Contra hearings, he became a familiar figure on TV as we heard how he had shredded secret documents under the nose of U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese. North was convicted on three criminal counts, which were overturned on a technicality. North is an accomplished liar, as has been documented in several publications including Reader's Digest (June 1993). Even Nancy Reagan told of his lies in her book.

North has become quite wealthy as he travels the country making speeches and appearing on TV. What kind of organization would pay a pathological liar to speak? The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) engaged North to speak earlier this week at its 2002 annual meeting in St. Louis.

It seems that it is more important to the current leaders of the SBC to be politically correct than to be morally or ethically correct.

Carl L. Hess  
Ozark, Ala.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.*

*Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.*

*Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)*

*Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.*

*Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.*

*No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.*

*When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.*

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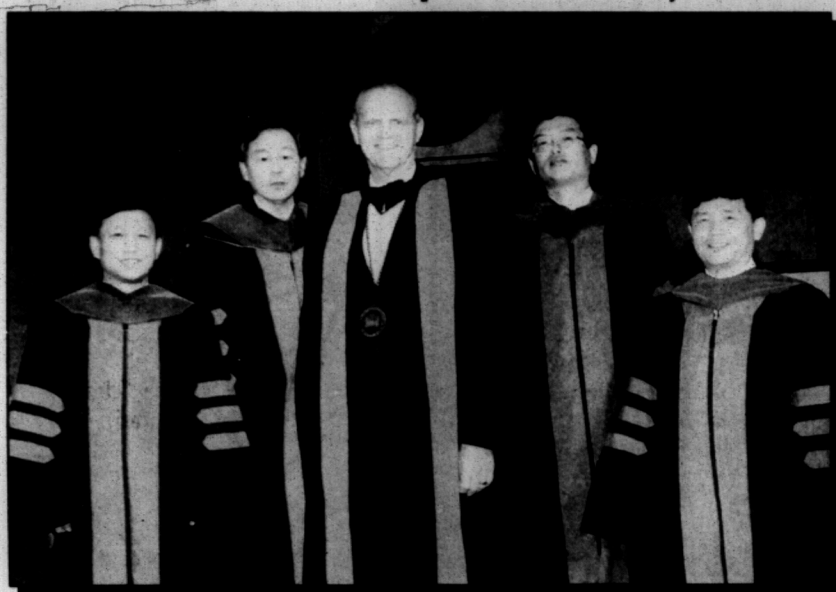
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# Southwestern Seminary holds graduation

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The global reach of Southwestern Seminary was evident at the seminary's 203rd commencement ceremony at Travis Avenue Church in Ft. Worth on May 17, as a total of 375 students from 29 states and 16 foreign countries were awarded degrees.



**FIRST GRADUATES** — Southwestern Seminary President Ken Hemphill (center) stands with the first four Korean students to graduate in a joint Korean Language doctor of ministry program between the Ft. Worth-based seminary and Korea Baptist Theological Seminary in Korea: (from left) Jongpo Kim, Jongyoul Kim, Jang Bae Min and Sang Chae Yoo. At present there are 74 South Korean students and 12 American students in the Korean Language doctor of ministry program. (Photo by Richard D. McCormack)

Four students from Korea were the first to graduate from the seminary's joint Korean language doctor of ministry program with Korea Baptist Theological Seminary (KTBS) under an agreement formalized in October 1997. Jongpo Kim, Jongyoul Kim, Jang Bae Min, and Sang Chae Yoo will return to Korea to pastor churches in Seoul, Incheon, and Dae Jeon.

In order to meet the residency requirement of the Association of Theological Schools, the four Korean students traveled to Southwestern two times and participated in two Doctor of Ministry seminars on each trip. According to Paul Stevens, associate dean of the doctor of ministry program, the

future of the relationship between Southwestern and KBTS is promising.

"At present 74 South Korean students and 12 American students are enrolled in the Korean language doctor of ministry program," Stevens said.

Melissa Koscheski became the first female to receive the Master of Arts in Islamic studies. She plans to pursue employment overseas where she can come into contact with Muslim women. Koscheski said she was thankful that the seminary established the program.

"I really enjoyed the program and it was definitely needed. I have gained a wealth of information and understanding that I wouldn't have had without it. I am lucky to have been offered the opportunity to participate in the Islamic studies program," Koscheski said.

Koscheski also said that while she remains in the United States she hopes to promote understanding between Christians and Muslims.

"Because of everything that has happened since Sept. 11, everyone has become so suspicious. People automatically assume that their Muslim neighbors are terrorists or at least sympathize with them — like those who cheered in the Middle East when the attacks occurred. I want people to see them simply as people who happen to have a different faith. The only difference is that they are lost."

Malaysia-native Jeanie Shim, who received a doctor of philosophy in educational ministries, will return to Southeast Asia to teach Christian education at Singapore

Baptist Theological Seminary in January 2003.

South Africa-native Andre Peasley, who received a master of divinity with biblical languages, was the first South African student to graduate from Southwestern.

Southwestern President Kenneth S. Hemphill said that the graduation of such a large class was evidence of the prayers and support of family, friends, and church members in the lives of the graduates.

Hemphill made his comments during a commencement address based on the parable of the sower in Matt. 13. He remarked that the manner in which the message of the gospel is received is dependent on the soil but encouraged graduates to "continue to sow seed no matter how the message of the Gospel is received."

"Some of you are going into places where we cannot even call you 'missionaries,' but you must keep sowing the seed. You've got good seed — the Word of God. What matters is the faithfulness of the sower. The harvest depends on the faithfulness of the sower," Hemphill said.

Of those who graduated, 342 students received master's degrees from 16 of the seminary's master's degree programs. Fifty-two received diplomas and seminary extension program certificates while another 29 received doctoral degrees.

Students from 40 states and 44 foreign countries are enrolled currently at Southwestern. More than 63,000 students have enrolled at the world's largest evangelical seminary since it was founded in 1908. More than 37,000 have received degrees.

## New Orleans Seminary graduates first D.Ed.Min.

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The first seminary student ever to graduate with a doctor of educational ministry (D.Ed.Min.) degree walked across the New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) chapel stage on May 18 as a part of the spring semester graduation exercises.

The D.Ed.Min. is a newly created degree approved in June 1998 by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS). The D.Ed.Min. is a professional doctorate degree similar to the doctor of ministry (D.Min.) degree, but tailored for those who have a master's degree in Christian education.

"We were privileged to join in with other Southern Baptist seminaries to help create this new degree for Christian educators and to secure approval from ATS," said Steve Lemke, seminary provost. "Our sister seminaries will soon be graduating their first D.Ed.Min. graduates as well, but we were excited to have the first graduate in the country for this new degree program."

ATS, the accrediting agency for graduate theological education in North America, authorized the D.Ed.Min. degree four years ago to be offered to students who serve in some form of church ministry, denominational service or missions administration and who hold a master of arts of Christian education (MACE), master in arts of religious education (MARE), master in religious education (MRE), or equivalent degrees.

Previously, holders of these degrees were required to do master of divinity equivalency work before beginning a professional doctoral program.

"The Doctor of Educational Ministry program offers the same opportunity to graduates in Christian education that has been available to master of divinity students through the doctor of ministry degree," explained Joe Sherrer, the seminary's director of the doctor of educational ministry program.

Like the D.Min. degree, the D.Ed.Min. degree provides qualified students the opportunity to achieve a high level of excellence both in the practice of ministry and in deeper theological reflection on ministry. Both degrees require three years of substantial professional experience in ministry beyond the completion of the master's degree program.

"The D.Ed.Min. degree is a professional doctorate designed to help students take their ministries to a new level of excellence," explained Steve Echols, associate dean of the Professional Doctoral Program at NOBTS. "There is no doubt that it is going to be viewed increasingly as outstanding prepara-

tion for the practice of ministry at every level of the Southern Baptist Convention, both in the local church and in denominational service."



**MAKING HISTORY** — Carey Froelich receives the hood to become the first person to graduate with the newly-developed doctor of educational ministry degree, at New Orleans Seminary's commencement services on May 18. (BP photo by The Portrait Gallery, New Orleans)

Currently, the seminary's D.Ed.Min. program has 47 students, some of whom are pastors, educational or other staff members, and denominational workers. "Our Christian education program is emerging as one of the largest and most highly regarded in theological education," said Perry Hancock, dean of graduate studies. "One strength of the program is our excellent faculty, whose years of ministry experience help students connect theory with practice in the local church."

The first D.Ed.Min. graduate was Carey Froelich, who earned his MRE at Southwestern Seminary. He has served in his current ministry for 21 years, as associate pastor of a church in Baton Rouge, La. Froelich felt the degree validated his work in a university community.

The degree requires 48 hours of seminar, workshop, and project work. Students specialize in one of several tracks: administration and servant leadership, church growth and church health, age group ministries, and community ministries, as well as using a non-specialized option or a user-driven specialization.



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### God wants me to live in peace

Galatians 5:22-23

By Ruth Gamble

In Paul's list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 the third fruit is peace. A frequently-overlooked story illustrating this quality is that of Isaac and the Philistine king, Abimelech.

After Abraham's death God's covenant dealings with Israel were to be continued through Isaac's line. Genesis 26 tells us that Isaac went to Abimelech in Gerar because of a severe famine in his land.

When asked about his lovely wife, Rebekah, Isaac said that she was his sister. (Actually, she was his first cousin.) Nevertheless, God prospered Isaac so greatly in crops and herds that Abimelech became jealous and told him to leave.

As Isaac left he was faced with conflicts over wells which

Abraham had dug and he had reopened.

The Philistines claimed them as theirs.

Rather than engage in conflicts, Isaac showed his peaceful nature and moved. He finally dug a well over which there was no conflict, naming it "Rehoboth," meaning "room." The Contemporary English Version gives the names of the three wells in this story "Quarrel," "Jealous," and "Lots of Room."

Moving on to Beersheba, Isaac had a visitation from God telling him not to be afraid because he would be with him, bless him, and increase the number of his descendants for Abraham's sake.

Isaac's response was to build an altar, call on the name of the Lord, and start digging another well. His peaceful reaction to the earlier conflicts served as a



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witness to Abimelech who came asking for a treaty between them because, he said, "We clearly saw that the Lord was with you." Isaac accepted their request and made a peacetreaty.

On that day Isaac's men came saying, "We've found water!" So Isaac called it Shibah and it became known as Beersheba, "well of the oath."

The secular worldview interprets peace as the absence of conflict, tension, pressures, or problems. This kind of peace leaves seekers frantically searching for it in various world religions, cults, eastern meditation, and philosophies.

Momentary tranquillity seems to be the goal. The biblical worldview, however, recognized that real peace is not achieved from self-effort, but is God's gift.

In John 14:27 (NIV) Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be trou-

bled and do not be afraid." God's peace produces wholeness and a sense of security now and for eternity.

Conflicts are inevitable today as they were in Isaac's day. Solutions are eagerly sought. The Old Testament Hebrew word for peace was "shalom." Twice in this Genesis 26 account the word is used (vv 29, 31) referring to an absence of conflict or being unharmed.

The word is used in other Old Testament passages having a broader meaning, that of completeness, security, welfare, or a sense of well-being. Thus it became a greeting meaning, "I wish you well," or "Peace to you."

The corresponding word in the New Testament is "eirene" (Irene). Its deepest meaning is spiritual, referring to a harmonious relationship with God, which Paul describes as "the peace of God which transcends all understanding." (Phil. 4:7 NIV).

This is the peace which God desires to give to each of us, enabling us to face conflict,

pressures, disappointments, and fears. It is a blessed assurance which David must have experienced when he wrote, "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8 NIV) and "I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me." (Psalm 3:5 NIV).

Should conflict always be avoided at any cost? Jesus felt there was a time for his righteous anger to be expressed when he overthrew the money-changers' tables in the Temple! God does not expect us to be "doormats," allowing godly principles to be trampled and destroyed.

Paul urged us to "put on the whole armor of God" to stand against the Devil's schemes, reminding us that there is a war against spiritual forces of evil.

For the Christian there is a personal, powerful sense of peace which gives purpose to the times when struggles must occur.

Gamble is a member of Slayden Church, Holly Springs.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Leading faithfully

2 Samuel 5:1-25

By Bart Walker

I hate waiting! I am the guy who stands impatiently in front of the microwave pleading with it to "hurry up" and scald the milk for my coffee! (Five years in New Orleans made me love the taste of "café au lait".)

We are an impatient culture, trained by media and society to expect that our desires be met immediately. Not only is this true in our rampant "instantaneous consumerism," but also in our expectations concerning the plans for our lives.

Rarely do we find those who are willing to wait for God to bring about his perfect plan in their lives and the result of this impatience is catastrophic!

When we fail to wait for God to reveal and fulfill his plan in our lives, we submit ourselves to the whims of our appetites, our peers, our flesh and our pride.

This week's lesson serves to remind us of God's faithfulness and David's willingness to wait for God's plan. Our lesson, entitled "Leading Faithfully" calls our attention to David—as his kingdom is established according to God's promises.

As chapter five opens, we find all the tribes of Israel, under the encouragement of the now deceased Abner, recognizing David as king on the basis of three premises:

First, they recognize David as their own blood brother. Second, they acknowledge David's valiant leadership in war from the time of his defeat of Goliath throughout Saul's kingship (recall the saying about David in 1 Samuel 18:7).

Third, they accept the prophecy given to David and Samuel concerning the reign of



Walker

David. Founded upon these premises, the elders of Israel anointed David (his third anointing) as King over the reunified nation.

Because David had patiently waited for the plan of God to materialize, he was able to "Grow in Service" as he took responsibility for assuming his role of leadership each step as God opened the door for him. His journey to kingship was a gradual process of growth, trust, and fulfillment of duty leading to a prosperous and famous forty-year reign!

As David accepted his God-appointed role as king of the nation. He was called upon to "Acknowledge God's Purposes" through establishing his leadership in at least three areas. He needed to lead the nation to finish the task of occupying the land beginning with the unfinished work in Jerusalem, the stronghold of the Jebusites.

He also needed to establish international recognition of his reign over the nation by presenting a unified front which apparently began to happen when

Hiram, king of Tyre sent the gifts to him to build his house. He finally needed to drive the Philistines out of the surrounding areas and relieve the nation of the constant threat of attack from these perennial enemies.

When David set out to secure the city of Jerusalem, he was welcomed with a taunt from the occupying Jebusites who informed him that their city was so impenetrable, and David's army so weak, that even the "blind and the lame shall turn you away."

This saying became a popular joke in the days after the capture of Jerusalem and establishment of it as the "city of David", as those who were driven out were either welcomed or turned away from David's palace (and maybe even the city) with a recitation of "the blind and the lame shall not come into the house."

As David fortified Jerusalem and established his kingship, it became more and more obvious that God's hand was upon him, even to the point of the recognition of surrounding countries, such as Tyre, the powerful and wealthy neighbor to the north.

One of David's first military tests as king was to finally drive out the powerful and well-armed Philistines. As David was brought to the brink of battle by the encroaching armies of Philistia, he did what had become characteristic of his life to this point, he sought the counsel of God.

David appealed to God for guidance, not simply presuming upon God's deliverance, he sought to know whether he should "go up" against the invading army. David received God's blessing on not only this incursion against the Philistines, but even specific battle plans for his second encounter with the Philistines.

Each of us can learn from this lesson how patient and confident trust in the plan of God can allow us to experience the wonderful victory of God's perfect timing.

Are you willing to rest in the knowledge that he has a perfect plan to reveal and fulfill in your life?

Walker is pastor of Parkway Church, Natchez.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



## Chaplains' lawsuit growing

WASHINGTON (BP) — A motion to add 12 evangelical chaplains to a class-action lawsuit charging the U.S. Navy with discrimination has been filed in U.S. District Court. The June 5 motion said an additional 10 plaintiffs have requested they be allowed to join the case in the near future. That would increase the number of plaintiffs to 39. Four current or former chaplains endorsed by the Southern Baptist Convention, and a fifth man with SBC ties, are among the new plaintiffs. The two-year-old suit now includes nine Southern Baptists, with two more expected to join.

The latest claims include such allegations as forced early retirement, downgraded evaluation reports, and lack of promotions which the plaintiffs attribute to their biblically-based beliefs. One of the active-duty complainants is Walker Marsh, Jr. of Slidell, La., a Southern Baptist who is stationed at the Naval Construction Training Center in Gulfport, Miss. He alleges that he has been continually passed over for promotion to commander because of the Navy's hostility towards non-liturgical chaplains and their faith groups.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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PWOHN EWN NCJHDA  
WA NWRWLLWQ; AWL  
NCWK VEWQUHN EWN  
QCON O TOJ ROJ PLXEB  
AWLNC.

GLWIULPH NQUENJ-

HUIUE: WEU

Clue: P = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm Sixty-Nine: Five.

# Baptists share food, hope with Palestinians

JERUSALEM (BP) — With anger, despair, and hunger soaring among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, Southern Baptist volunteers are bringing food — and hope. "Project Future and Hope" will send up to 20 Southern Baptist volunteer teams into Palestinian towns and refugee camps through the summer months to work alongside Arab Baptists. They will distribute food and minister to families and children traumatized by the increasingly bloody street battles between Palestinian and Israeli forces.

"People are in need, and we want to share God's love in a concrete way," said Paul Lawrence, a Southern Baptist worker among Palestinian Arabs who is coordinating the project. "There is a real feeling of hopelessness among the Palestinians. They don't see their lives going anywhere. There's no future in their dreams."

Months of attacks and counterattacks by Israelis and Palestinians have only worsened an already-grim economic situation. Half a million Palestinians need immediate food aid, according to the United Nations' World Food Program, with 50% of the population in the territories struggling to exist on less than two dollars per person per day.



DEATH IN BETHLEHEM — Nine Palestinian young men carry two coffins with two dead gunmen in a negotiated exit April 24 from Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, where Israelis and Palestinians engaged in a standoff and exchanged gunfire beginning in early April and continuing until the recent negotiated settlement. (BP photo courtesy of Israeli Defense Forces)

Fragile local economies that had begun to grow with international aid and investment have been crushed by the collapse of the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, curfews, border closures — and constant armed clashes. Even before the major escalation of fighting this spring, the overall Palestinian economy had sustained an estimated \$2.2 billion in lost production during the previous 15 months of skirmishes.

"The situation is very bad, because (average Palestinians)

have not been able to work, some of them for years," Lawrence said. "With the latest escalation, many more cannot work, and many more are under curfew. There's food here, but people can't afford it."

Arab Baptists in local churches and other evangelical Christians already have begun food distribution — sometimes walking from town to town because of travel restrictions. Southern Baptist volunteer teams from Alabama, North and South Carolina, Louisiana,

Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, and possibly other states are scheduled to arrive beginning in early June to assist the relief efforts in Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and other parts of the West Bank, as well as in Gaza. Southern Baptists have earmarked \$350,000 in hunger and relief funds for the project.

In addition to food aid, they plan to conduct several week-long camps for Christian and Muslim children, counsel children and families terrorized by the fighting, paint classrooms in a Hebron Christian school and work with some of the estimated 15,000 deaf Palestinians in Gaza.

Aiding Palestinian children is a major priority, Lawrence stressed.

"Children frequently hear machine-gun fire and see the aftermath of war, and they've been under curfew for more than a month," he explained. "They're experiencing the kind of post-traumatic stress that kids anywhere would. We just want to bring a little joy into their lives."

Contributions for relief ministries in Palestinian towns and refugee centers may be sent to: General Relief Fund — Palestinians, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. Every dollar given will be used 100% for Palestinian relief ministries.

## Christian leaders advise against TNIV translation

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A statement issued by 100 Christian leaders May 28 details their opposition to the use of the gender-neutral Today's New International Version (TNIV) for preaching or Bible study. The TNIV, a revision of the widely used 1984 New International Version (NIV) Bible, translation, was introduced in January by the International Bible Society (IBS) and Zondervan publishing house.

The May 28 statement, coordinated by the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW), states that the TNIV "makes significant changes" in the gender language in the NIV.

"The TNIV raises more concern in this regard than previous Bible versions because, riding on the reputation of the NIV, the TNIV may vie for a place as the church's commonly accepted Bible. We believe that any commonly accepted Bible of the church should be more faithful to the language of the original," according to the statement.

Describing the TNIV as having gone "beyond acceptable translation standards in several important respects," the statement declares, "Because of these and other misgivings, we cannot endorse the TNIV as sufficiently trustworthy to commend to the church."

"We do not believe it is a translation suitable for use as a normal preaching and teaching text of the church or for a common memorizing, study, and reading Bible of the Christian community."

Signers of the nine-paragraph statement include the president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), James Merritt,

an Atlanta-area pastor; Jack Graham, a Dallas-area pastor expected to be nominated to succeed Merritt at the June meeting of the SBC; and three former SBC presidents: Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary in North Carolina; Tom Elliff, an Oklahoma City-area pastor; and Adrian Rogers, a Memphis, Tenn., area pastor.

Among about 15 other Southern Baptist leaders signing the statement are Robert E. Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board; and three other SBC seminary presidents, R. Albert Mohler Jr. of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Chuck Kelley of New Orleans Seminary; and Ken Hemphill of Southwestern in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Among other Christian leaders signing the statement are Charles Colson of Prison Fellowship; author and speaker Joni Eareckson Tada; James Dobson of Focus on the Family; Pat Robertson of the Christian Broadcasting Network; Ted Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film & Television Commission; finance authors Larry Burkett and Ron Blue; Bill McCartney, president of Promise Keepers; Dal Shealy, president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes; William Pugh, national director of Athletes in Action; talk show host Janet Parshall; Dennis Rainey, executive director of FamilyLife; Donald Wildmon of the American Family Association; radio speaker Chuck Swindoll; and Jack Hayford, pastor of The Church on the Way, Van Nuys, Calif.

The May 28 statement differs from a February statement coordinated by the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood and signed by nearly 40 schol-

ars stating, "In light of troubling translation inaccuracies — primarily (but not exclusively) in relation to gender language — that introduce distortions of the meanings that were conveyed better by the original NIV, we cannot endorse the TNIV translation as sufficiently accurate to commend to the church."

The TNIV's New Testament, which was published this spring, will be followed by the complete Bible, "expected in 2005," according to IBS/Zondervan news releases, which also noted that the NIV will continue to be published.

Neither IBS nor Zondervan returned Baptist Press' calls for comment.

The statement with 100 signatories "is meant to reflect how deep and broad the evangelical concern is" about the TNIV, Randy Stinson, executive director of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (CBMW), based in Louisville, Ky., told Baptist Press May 28.

In a CBMW news release May 28, Stinson stated, "These leaders represent various types of ministries, denominations, and theological persuasions, but all have a passionate concern about the Bible and the translation process."

The TNIV, Stinson said in the news release, "has plunged the evangelical world into a crucial decision-making process that will now affect the future direction of Bible translation in the English speaking world and will determine for years to come what kinds of Bibles will be commonly accepted as the preaching, teaching, devotional, memorizing Bibles of the church."